

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/550,451

Applicant(s)

DAVISON, DAN

Examiner

GWEN LIANG

Art Unit

2172

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) GWEN LIANG. (3) _____.

(2) JULIE NICKOLS. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 26 August 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1,2,7,8,21 and 31.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The applicant's representative has agreed and authorized the Examiner to make the following changes:

2. In the claims:

Replace claim 1 with the following text.

1. A method of creating a relational database stored in a computer readable medium so that multiple simultaneous hierarchies can be defined without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in the multiple hierarchies, wherein the relational database includes a plurality of objects, each having an associated data to be accessed; said method comprising:

forming a first database table having a plurality of entries, each entry representing an object with an associated data to be accessed;

forming a second database table having a plurality of entries, each entry defining a relationship between two objects of said plurality of objects, wherein each entry is associated with at least one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies by using hierarchy identifiers;

forming a third database table, said third database table having a first record representing a first one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies and a second record representing a second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies;

in the second database table, designating a first relationship between a first object and a second object in associated with the first one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies; and

in the second database table, designating a second relationship between the first object and the second object associated with a second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies.

Replace claim 8 with the following text.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said relationship is between a parent and a child.

Replace claim 21 with the following text.

21. A method of creating a relational data structure for storage in a computer readable medium, and retrieval of data having multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in the multiple simultaneous hierarchies, the method comprising:

forming a table of members referenced in the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships and data to be accessed wherein the data is associated with each member;

forming a table of reporting relationships among the members referenced in the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships, wherein each one of said reporting relationships is associated with a hierarchy identifier; and

forming a table of summary description of each one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies existing in the table of reporting relationships, the table of summary description having a first record representing a first one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships and a second record representing a second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships;

in the table of reporting relationships, designating a first relationship between a first member and a second member associated with the first one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies;

in the table of reporting relationships, designating a second relationship between the first member and the second member associated with the second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies; and

in the table of reporting relationships, designating a reversible parent-child relationship between pairs of the members, wherein a first member is denoted as a parent to a second member, and the second member is denoted as a parent to the first member.

Replace claim 31 with the following text.

31. A relational data structure tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium for representing multiple simultaneous hierarchies without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in each of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies, wherein the relational data structure is based on a plurality of objects, the relational data structure comprising:

a first table providing means for:

organizing a plurality of objects into at least a first and a second entries, wherein each object is related to at least one other object by a defined relationship;

storing an object identifier associated with each of the plurality of objects;

storing associated data to be accessed for each object identifier;

a second table providing means for:

associating the object identifier of each of the plurality of objects with the object identifier of each related object to represent each defined relationship;

storing a hierarchy identifier, associated with each relationship for indicating that each relationship is associated with a particular one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies,

wherein a first relationship is designated between a first object and a second object in the first one of the multiple

simultaneous hierarchies and a second relationship is designated between the first object and the second object in a the second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies; and
a third table providing means for:
storing a summary description of each one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies existing in the second table, having a first record representing a first one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies and a second record representing a second one of the multiple simultaneous hierarchies.

3. Cancel claims: 2,7.

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